

American skunk cabbage

(*Lysichiton americanus*)

Habitat: Terrestrial. Prefers wet areas

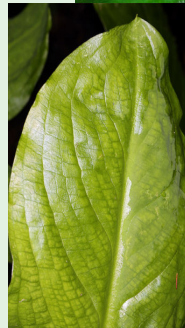
Family name: Araceae

Reproduction: Male and female (sometimes hermaphrodite) flowers can occur within the same distinctive inflorescence which consists of a spathe and spadix. Pollination is carried out by beetles

As the name suggests, the plant emits a foul smelling odour when damaged/crushed or dying back



Leaves are in a rosette arrangement at base



Bright green leathery leaf, normally 40-70cm long, but can grow up to 1.5m



Spadix



Seasonal variations

Winter – Spring: Late flowering plant.

Summer – Autumn: Green berries ripen in July and August.

Native to North America it was introduced to the UK and Ireland by gardeners and now resides in boggy acid soils in wet woodlands, stream-sides.

Forms dense stands which can shade out native species. Its preference for wet soils means that the seed can easily be dispersed via waterbodies.

up to 45cm



1-4 bright yellow spathes resembling large petals